



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Bruce C. Monk et al  
Serial No.: 09/994,399  
Filed: Nov. 26, 2001  
Title: Validation And Verification  
Apparatus And Method

Date: June 3, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 2625  
Examiner: Aaron W. Carter

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is in response to an Office Action dated March 13, 2003.

Please amend the claims as shown in the attached "AMENDED CLAIMS". Claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended, and all claims (1 – 32) remain in the application.

**COMMENTS**

The Examiner first rejects claim 13, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention."

Continuing, the Examiner states that: "Claims 13, 17 and 20 recites the limitation 'based upon the results of the third characteristics comparing step' in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner will treat the claim as though the phrase reads "based upon the results of the reference information comparing step." The Examiner is correct and the applicant is amending these claims to add the language suggested by the Examiner.

Then the Examiner rejects claims 14 and 18 because "they recite the limitation 'wherein the second characteristics' in line 1." and "there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner will treat the claim as though the phrase reads

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